



Elephant Seal Interest Groups

Bird Watchers

We visit Limantour Beach to watch and enjoy the many types of birds found on this beach. The increase in elephant seals has made it an attraction for tourists. These tourists scare the birds away and make it hard to find a parking spot. Sometimes the beach can be closed if too many elephant seals are hauled out.

Tourists

Let the elephant seals stay, but allow us to get a closer look. The National Park Service should make the parking lot bigger, sell more types of food at the café, and provide viewing areas in the shade.

Dune Vegetation

The increase in elephant seals has meant we get more and more trampled every year. If it isn't the elephant seals trampling us, it's the humans trying to get close any way they can. Some of us are endangered, threatened, or rare. When we're gone, we are gone forever.

Elephant Seals

It isn't the easiest thing to find a place to haul out on the California coast. Humans have developed most of the sandy coastal areas in this state. Limantour Beach is just right for us if dogs, people, and horses are kept away from our space. Let elephant seals come first in management decisions in some natural areas, we don't stand a chance in other places.

Dog Owners

The beach is the perfect place to let my dog run wild. I can keep him in view and bird chasing is great "doggie entertainment". Now that the elephant seals have been "hogging" the beach, there is pressure to keep my dogs out of the area.

Docents

Elephant Seals belong here. As a docent, I can help visitors see and understand these amazing seals. While I'm out here, I can also collect field data for resource management.

Law Enforcers

We have signs all over the place letting visitors know when they get too close to the seals. Most people respect the signs, but some ignore them and get too close. I've seen a pup crushed under another seal because a human approached too closely.

Wildlife Photographers

It's great there are more elephant seals in the area, but can't we just get a little closer? We don't want everyone to get close, just the professional photographers.



Activity Sheet

Name _____ Date _____

Western Snowy Plover

I build my nest on the ground, in the beach dunes, and I am afraid for the future of all western snowy plovers. There are many reasons to be afraid, but sometimes visitors take shortcuts across the dunes to view elephant seals and my eggs are crushed. I am an endangered species trying to survive.

Marine Mammal Biologist

Elephant Seals are fascinating. We almost lost them forever. At several points in time they were considered extinct. There is so much to learn about them and how they fit into the ecosystem. The more we know about them, the more we can protect them and everything in their habitat.

Park Rangers

Elephant seals have the right to use this beach. People also have the right to use this beach and view elephant seals. But, if there are no more elephant seals here, some people may not want to come anymore. We must balance this use with resource protection as our highest priority. We also can't ignore federal laws that were written to protect Marine Mammals.